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## PALEONTOLOGY.

**Spencerites.**<sup>1</sup>—This genus is founded upon the *Lepidostrobus insignis* and *Lepidodendron spenceri* of Williamson, whose material consisted of cones with their detached peduncles, but no vegetative parts. The specimens were derived from the coal measures of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and were first described by Williamson in 1878.

A review of this material in conjunction with additional specimens from different sources, convinces Dr. Scott that the characters presented by the cones are such as to demand the institution of a new genus under the name of *Spencerites*. To this are assigned Williamson's *Lepidodendron spenceri*, from which the generic name is taken, and *Lepidostrobus insignis*, under the name of *S. insignis*. The essential features of this species are found in the course of the leaf trace bundles; in the peltate form of the sporophylls which consist of a short, cylindrical pedicel expanding into a relatively large lamina; the approximately spherical sporangia which are quite free from the pedicel, but attached by a narrow base to the upper surface of the lamina where it begins to expand, and in the characteristics of the spores which are intermediate between the microspores and macrospores of *Lepidostrobus* and are provided with a hollow wing formed from the dilated cuticle about the equator.

*Spencerites majusculus*, a new species, is a large plant with larger cones; the sporophylls are more numerous, but the spores are much smaller, form quadrants of a sphere, and have narrow wings along their three angles.

The genus differs from *Lepidostrobus* chiefly on account of the different mode of insertion of the sporangia, the structure of the sporangial wall and of the spaces, and also the whole habit of the cone.

**Cheirostrobus.**<sup>2</sup>—From the well-known Calciferous Sandstone Series at Pettycur, on the Firth of Forth, there has been obtained an entirely new type of cone which Dr. Scott describes under the name of *Cheirostrobus pettycurensis*, thus adding to the eight distinct types

<sup>1</sup> Scott, D. H. On the Structure and Affinities of Fossil Plants from the Palæozoic Rocks, *Phil. Trans. R. Soc.*, Ser. B, 189 (1897), 83-106.

<sup>2</sup> Scott, D. H. On *Cheirostrobus*, a New Type of Fossil Cone from the Lower Carboniferous Strata (Calciferous Sandstone Series), *Phil. Trans. R. Soc.*, Ser. B, 189 (1897), 1-34.